

JAN 25 2006

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that, according to
2 the national center for public policy and higher education, net
3 college costs for low- and middle-income students to attend
4 Hawaii's public four-year colleges and universities represent a
5 third of their families' annual income. In 2004, the national
6 non-profit independent organization gave Hawaii a "D" for
7 affordability. The organization also noted that "over the past
8 few years, Hawaii has had among the steepest declines in the
9 nation in the percentage of first-time, full-time college
10 students earning their bachelor's degree within six years of
11 enrolling in college."

12 During the 2005 legislative session, recognizing the need
13 to provide financial support to Hawaii's residents in attaining
14 a post secondary degree, the legislature appropriated \$1,500,000
15 in general funds for the fiscal biennium 2005-2007 to provide
16 merit-based scholarships for Hawaii's low-income public school
17 graduates wishing to attend the university. Despite this
18 appropriation, the legislature finds that the increases in the



1 tuition and fee schedule, which takes effect in the fall of
2 2006, will continue to make it difficult for Hawaii's residents
3 to attend the university. The legislature also finds that the
4 initial appropriation of \$1,500,000 is not sufficient to enroll
5 a significant proportion of the estimated number of eligible
6 applicants.

7 Given the State's current financial surplus, and based on
8 input from the University, the purpose of this Act is to amend
9 section 57 of Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, by
10 increasing the 2006-2007 appropriation by \$2,000,000 and by
11 making technical nonsubstantive amendments.

12 SECTION 2. Act 178, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, is
13 amended by amending section 57 to read as follows:

14 "SECTION 57. Provided that of the general fund
15 appropriation for the university of Hawaii systemwide (UOH 900),
16 the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for
17 fiscal year 2005-2006, and the sum of [~~\$1,000,000~~] \$3,000,000 or
18 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007,
19 shall be deposited into the student scholarship and assistance
20 special fund; provided further that the amounts shall be used to
21 fund the [~~B-Plus~~] B Plus Scholarship program; provided further
22 that the university shall offer [~~full~~] scholarships to any



1 Hawaii resident [~~applying to~~] enrolling in any campus within the
 2 university system provided that the individual has graduated
 3 from a Hawaii public high school with a cumulative grade point
 4 average of 3.0 or better and is considered low income according
 5 to [~~the state of Hawaii department of education's guidelines for~~
 6 ~~students qualifying for the free and reduced lunch program.~~]
 7 federal financial aid guidelines; and the scholarship may be
 8 renewed annually if the student maintains satisfactory academic
 9 progress."

10 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

13

INTRODUCED BY: *Cyren Hill*
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SB. NO. 3120

Report Title:

UH; Special Fund

Description:

Increases the amount of general fund appropriations previously appropriated for the B Plus scholarship program. Deposits the appropriations into the student scholarship and assistance special fund. Changes the income guidelines.

